REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 16, 2003. Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 31 and 32 are now pending in the application, with Claims 9, 18, 21, 23, 24 and 27 to 30 having been canceled, and Claims 31 and 32 having been added. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1 and 10 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 and 10 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,184,996 (Gase), and Claims 6 to 9 and 15 to 30 were rejected under § 103(a) over Gase in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,821 (Theriault). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns print-by-reference functionality in printers. According to the invention, a web page from a printer's embedded web server is provided to a web browser of, for example, a user's host computer. A URL of a document to be printed is entered into the provided web page and received by the web browser. The printer retrieves a document corresponding to the URL from a web site on the Internet, and prints the retrieved document. Thus, a user can have a document printed simply by inputting the URL of the document into the web page of the printer, whereby the printer then retrieves the document from a web site on the Internet and prints the document.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a control method for controlling a printer for providing print-by-reference functionality to a web browser, the method comprising the steps of providing a web page from a printer's embedded web server to the web browser, receiving a URL entered into the provided web

page by the web browser, retrieving a document corresponding to the URL from a web site on the Internet, and printing the retrieved document.

Amended independent Claim 10 is a computer-executable process steps claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of amended independent Claims 1 and 10. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving, by a web browser, a URL entered into a printer's web page provided by a printer's embedded web server to the web browser, and retrieving a document corresponding to the URL from a web site on the Internet.

Gase is seen to disclose that a scanner and a printer include a server procedure 24 and a browser procedure 26. Server procedure 24 provides a print job management function for the printer and is used to respond to request messages from one or more client processors. Browser procedure 26 enables the printer to respond to a received URL by accessing, via the WWW, a print job designated by the URL. (See column 3, lines 12 to 23.) The server procedure 24 can provide a "home page" of the printer to a client processor, whereby a user can view jobs queued in the printer, control the job queue, or view properties of the printer itself. (See column 3, line 37 to column 4, line 49.) However, nothing in Gase is seen to disclose or to suggest that a user can enter a URL of a document to be printed into the home page of the printer, whereby the printer retrieves the document corresponding to the entered URL from a web site on the Internet and prints the document. That is, the home page of Gase's printer is only used to view the job queue of the printer, to alter the queue, or to view properties of the printer. Nowhere does Gase disclose that a URL of a document to be printed is entered into the printer's web page.

Moreover, the process utilized by Gase in providing the URL of the document to be printed to the printer is simply different from the present invention, as claimed. In the present invention, a user enters a URL of a document to be printed into the printer's web page, where the web page is provided by an embedded web server in the printer to the web browser. Upon entering the URL of the document into the printer's web page, the printer uses the URL to retrieve the document from a web site on the Internet. In contrast, the only disclosure in Gase of how a printer receives a URL of a document to be printed is that a scanner transmits a URL of a scanned document to the printer. While it is somewhat unclear as to the details of this process, it appears that Gase saves a scanned document to a particular location and then transmits the URL corresponding to the saved location to the printer. Thus, the URL of the document to be printed is not entered into the web page of the printer, but rather, is merely transmitted, presumably via the HTTP protocol of the browser procedure in the scanner, to the printer. Accordingly, Gase is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of amended independent Claims 1 and 10.

Theriault is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Gase, would have rendered the present invention obvious. In this regard, Theriault is merely seen to disclose an enhanced proxy that stores URLs of accessed web sites and that modifies queries. However, like Gase, Theriault is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of receiving, by a web browser, a URL entered into a printer's web page provided by a printer's embedded web server to the web browser, and retrieving a document corresponding to the URL from a web site on the Internet.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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